

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 03257 120044Z

12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

/116 W

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R 112350Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3557

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

UNCLAS MEXICO 3257

DEPT PASS STR: AMB DENT

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S REJECTION OF ESCAPE CLAUSE  
RELIEF ON ASPARAGUS IMPORTS

REF: MEXICO 3175

1. AT LAST SOME TRADE ACTION OF THE UNITED STATES HAS  
RECEIVED FAVORABLE COMMENTS IN THE MEXICAN PRESS, AND IN  
ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY READ NEWSPAPERS. IN A FRONT  
PAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED "FORD JUDGES FAVORABLY TO MEXICANS"  
EXCELSIOR REPORTED ON MARCH 11 AFTER AN INTERVIEW WITH  
AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUIN ON THE USG ESCAPE CLAUSE DECISION  
ON FRESH ASPARAGUS. THE ARTICLE STATED: " TODAY PRESIDENT  
FORD JUDGED IN FAVOR OF MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS,  
REFUSING A DEMAND BY U.S. FARMERS TO RESTRICT THE  
IMPORTATION OF ASPARAGUS FROM MEXICO BY MEANS OF QUOTAS  
AND TARIFFS."

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 03257 120044Z

2. AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING: "THE

DECISION WAS JUST. I AM PLEASED BECAUSE THIS SHOWS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE, EVEN IN AN ELECTION YEAR, HAS ACTED JUSTLY IN THIS CASE." ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE DE OLLOQUI ADDED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS AGAINST IMPEDIMENTS TO MEXICAN ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET "ARE A CONTINUOUS FIGHT AND WE CANNOT THINK THAT IT HAS BEEN WON. I ONLY HOPE THAT THIS ATTITUDE IS A SIGNAL OF A FAVORABLE CHANGE."

3. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI NEGOTIATED PRINCIPALLY WITH AMBASSADOR DENT. IT QUOTED DE OLLOQUI AS SAYING THAT THE ATTITUDE OF AMBASSADOR DENT "DEMONSTRATED A CLEAR COMPREHENSION OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH MEXICO HAS AS A CUSTOMER OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT EXTERNAL TRADE IS A WAY TOWARD BRINGING NATIONS TOGETHER WHEN THERE IS WILL AND JUSTICE DONE."

4. THE ARTICLE THEN CONTINUES "THE FORTUNATE RESULTS OF THE ASPARAGUS NEGOTIATIONS ARE ADDED TO THE POSITIVE RESULTS OBTAINED IN RECENT DAYS IN NEGOTIATIONS ON SUGAR AND LEATHER GLOVES." IT ALSO NOTES THAT THE ITC HAD JUST REJECTED ESCAPE CLAUSE RELIEF ON GLOVE IMPORTS BUT CLAIMING THAT "LAST WEEK THE GOVERNMENT OF WASHINGTON ACCEPTED A REQUEST PRESENTED BY THE EMBASSY OF MEXICO TO EXTEND GSP TO IMPORTS OF SUGAR FROM MEXICO." FINALLY, THE ARTICLE MENTIONS THAT "NEGOTIATIONS TO THWART U.S. PROTECTIONISTS INTERESTS IN SHOES AND SHRIMP WILL BE FINISHED IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS," GIVES THE CORRECT STATUS OF EACH INVESTIGATION, AND STATES THAT THE ULTIMATE DECISION IN BOTH CASES WILL REST WITH THE PRESIDENT.

5. THE ARTICLE MAKES NO MENTION OF THE RECENT ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO MEXICO'S GSP LIST.  
THOMPSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**To:** STATE  
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